

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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P R 071326Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1432  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6255

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PINT, GR, US  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALLS ON PROMINENT GREEK LEADERS

REF: STATE 135420

1. AS PART OF HIS FAREWELL ROUND OF CALLS AND MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR TODAY MET WITH PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT PAPACONSTANTINOU, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION MAVROS, AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER KANELLOPOULOS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EACH OF THESE THREE HAS AT LEAST A SMALL CHANCE, IN VARYING CIRCUMSTANCES, OF SUCCEEDING CARAMANLIS AS PRIME MINISTER IF CARAMANLIS OPTS FOR THE PRESIDENCY NEXT YEAR. A FULL RANGE OF TOPICS--SUCH AS U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS, GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS, CYPRUS, INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE, ETC.--WAS DISCUSSED AT EACH MEETING. HOWEVER, VIEWS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE ALREADY WELL KNOWN IN WASHINGTON AND DETAILS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED WORTHY OF REPORTING, EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

2. KANELLOPOULOS, WHO HAD BEEN INFORMED OF WASHINGTON REACTION TO THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE PANCYPRIAN COMMITTEE (REFTEL), SAID HE WAS DIAPPOINTEED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE UNABLE TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION BUT FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANT AND HEAVY DEMANDS ON  
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THE PRESIDENT'S TIME. HE SAID PLANS WERE GOING FORWARD FOR A DELEGATION CONSISTING OF TWO CYPRIOTS AND ONE GREEK TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN THE NO-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE AND AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST ONE MONTH'S ADVANCE NOTICE OF THEIR ARRIVAL WOULD BE ADVISABLE IN ORDER TO HELP ARRANGE AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM FOR THEM. KANELLOPOULOS ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO DIMINISH THE RESIDUE OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEEL-

INGS IN GREECE, REFERRING TO HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE STANDING AT THE SIDE OF THE AMBASSADOR WHILE THE LOS ANGELES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PLAYED THE "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" RECENTLY AT THE HEROD ATTICUS THEATRE AT THE FOOT OF THE ACROPOLIS. (KANELLOPOULOS, WHO WAS OVERTHROWN AS PRIME MINISTER BY THE COLONELS IN APRIL 1967, WAS BELIEVED BY MANY GREEKS TO BE EMBITTERED AGAINST THE USG AND HAS INCREASINGLY COOPERATED WITH US OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN HELPING TO DISPEL THAT NOTION.)

3. MAVROS SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY SUCCEED CARAMANLIS AS PRIME MINISTER NEXT YEAR IF CARAMANLIS, AS HE TOLD MAVROS HE WAS PLANNING TO DO, DECIDED TO BECOME PRESIDENT AND ASKED MAVROS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT FROM BOTH THE NEW DEMOCRACY AND CENTER UNION PARTIES TO PREPARE THE COUNTRY FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE FALL OF 1978. MAVROS ALSO (SHOWING THE CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE HE HAS COME OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS) SAID THAT IN RETROSPECT HE HAD NOW CONCLUDED THAT THE THEN-FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND THE BRITISH--NOT THE USG AND THE AMERICANS \* --WERE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY IN CYPRUS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE UNSUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST MAKARIOS ON JULY 15, 1974.

4. PAPACONSTANTINOU GREATLY DISCOUNTED THE INFLUENCE OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IN GREECE AND THE LATTER'S POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE CONTINUOUSLY UNFOLDING DRAMA OF GREEK POLITICAL LIFE. PAPACONSTANTINOU ALSO ASKED THAT HIS BEST REGARDS AND WISHES BE CONVEYED TO SPEAKER O'NEILL, ADDING THAT HE

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AND THE GREEK PARLIAMENT WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED CONTACTS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THESE TWO LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

5. AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OCCASION OF HIS VISITS TO PRAISE AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE AND THE EXPERIENCE AND QUALITIES HE WOULD BE BRINGING TO HIS NEW POST. ALL THREE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE AS SOON AS IT COULD CONVENIENTLY BE ARRANGED FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL.

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## Message Attributes

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